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ible, but Holthausen's proposal has this advantage over Förster's that it preserves the *m* of the MS., which there is no reason to reject.

I believe that the mysterious *marþon* should be read *mærþon*, and is another instance of *mærþum* 'miraculously, wondrously, gloriously.' This adverbial use of the dative plural of *mærþ(u)* is exemplified in Bosworth-Toller by two instances, taken from *Elene* and *Beowulf*. Morris translates the passage from *poune* to *gedcundan (miht)*: 'but, moreover, there was no change either of the divine nature or of the divine power in its imprisonment in the human nature.' 'Moreover' has no sense whatever in this clause; if we substitute 'miraculously' the sense is suited. If it should be objected that there is no corresponding word in the Latin text, I refer to the universal habit of the Old English translators to drop or insert words as appeared convenient to them. I agree with Holthausen that the sentence ends with *miht*, but I prefer to place a mark of interrogation after *oþerre*, and a period after *miht*. As regards the form *mærþon*, datives in *-on* are not rare in the *Blickling Homilies*: *eaxon* 121, 1; *earon* 121, 2; *hæton* 59, 4; *lufon* 23, 24; *dælon* 53, 12.

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#### BRIEF MENTION

For some years it has been evident that the relations between the *Goethe-Jahrbuch* and the Goethe-Gesellschaft were becoming more or less strained. Thus no 'communication' from the Archiv was printed in either 1912 or 1913, and 1911 was also the last year that the *Festvortrag* of the *Generalversammlung* of the Society was published in the *Jahrbuch*. In 1912 the establishment of a separate official organ of the Society was resolved upon and the first volume has now appeared under the title *Jahrbuch der Goethe-Gesellschaft. Im Auftrage des Vorstandes herausgegeben von H. G. Gräff*, Weimar, Verlag der Goethe-Gesellschaft, 1914 (8vo., 225 pp.).

Comparing the new organ with the older issues of Professor Geiger's *Goethe-Jahrbuch*—the publication of which has now ceased—we

find the rubrics 'Abhandlungen' and 'Mitteilungen aus dem Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv' retained, with the difference, however, that the *Abhandlungen* in the new organ are fewer in number and are all contributed by men of note (Walzel, Seuffert, Pniower). The rubric 'Neue und alte Quellen' is practically identical in scope with the heading 'Verschiedene Mitteilungen' of the old Year-book. Added is the category 'Mitteilungen aus dem Goethe-National-Museum,' represented in the initial volume solely by an exquisite reproduction of the painting of Goethe by George Dawe, accompanied by some two pages of explanatory text, which have evidently not found the place intended for them in the volume. The old rubric 'Miscellen,' always rather scrappy in character, is dropped altogether, as is also the Bibliography, whether wisely or not is open to question. Outwardly and inwardly the distinguishing character of the new as compared with the old Annual is a certain *Vornehmheit* that accords well with Weimar traditions. Perhaps in line with this is the change from a Latin to a Fraktur type, a change which will otherwise be regretted by many foreign readers.

*Les Aires morphologiques dans les parlers populaires du nord-ouest de l'Angoumois*, par A.-L. Terracher (Champion, 1914. xiv + 248 + 452 pp., and Atlas). While listing and classifying certain of the speech phenomena of a limited locality with a thoroughness and, to judge from equipment and method, a sureness difficult to excel, the author has not written a local dialect treatise in the ordinary sense. Instead, this is a fundametal study of the processes and possible causes of speech substitution, as tested in a small group of *parlers populaires*. The territory is northwest Angoumois, and the phenomena selected for observation are the inflexion systems there in use—a choice that needs no justification beyond the superior fashion in which morphological systems lend themselves to accurate observation. The geographical distribution of these phenomena is established with care, and shows for the territory covered no correspondence with physical or ecclesiastical boundaries sufficient to justify the assumption of a causal nexus. Mr. Terracher then proceeds to test the influence of speech-mixture upon the speech forms. This he does, not by means of assumptions or of specimen cases, but by positive data, and he has not hesitated before the colossal task of analyzing, for a period of one hundred years,

the individual marriage statistics of fifty communes with a population of some 40,000. The remarkably detailed and systematic study of these statistics leads to the establishment of a direct relation between the disintegration of the local speeches and the introduction of non-local elements into the community, by reason of the marriages which residents contract with outsiders. For a single village a minute examination is further made of the speech of every family and of the nature and extent of the changes wrought in families where extraneous members have been introduced. As a result of such a thoroughgoing and specific piece of work light can hardly fail to be thrown on many important questions of detail. It is definitely shown that the break-up of the old local patois is to a less extent due to the direct influence of French than to its indirect influence working through neighboring patois nearer to French than the one in process of disintegration. Of equal interest is the evidence adduced to show that the geographical distribution of extra-local marriages and of kinship in flexional forms is directly connected with the boundaries of the medieval fiefs. In all of the discussion, there is an admirable freedom from exaggeration of the element under consideration and from forgetfulness of the existence of other possible factors. It is striking that in this as in two other recent works bearing upon entirely different domains and problems—Bédier's *Légendes épiques* and Foulet's *Roman de Renard*—each author has independently of the other chosen the same path: the concentration of attention on a concrete, correlated, and accessible group of phenomena interpreted in the light of their *milieu* and *moment*. The coincidence is of no small import for the future of linguistic and literary study.

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M. Menéndez y Pelayo, *Orígenes de la novela*, Tomo IV, con una introducción de A. Bonilla y San Martín (Nueva Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, 21. Madrid, Bailly-Baillière, 1915, 8vo., 620 pp.) contains the following texts: "El Asno de Oro," de Lucio Apuleyo;—"Eurialo é Lucrecia,"—"Fabulario," de Sebastián Mey;—"Coloquios," de Erasmo;—"Coloquio de las Damas," de Pedro Aretino; "Diálogos de Amor," de Leon Hebreo;—"El Viaje Entretenido," de Agustín de Rojas. This choice of texts is in conformity with an intention, previously expressed, of treating "especialmente del género picaresco, y tambien de otras formas novelísticas ó análogas á la novela, como los coloquios y diálogos satíricos." The

death of Menéndez Pelayo left the volume scarcely begun and the present publication is due to the devoted friend and pupil who knew of the plans of the *Maestro*. Bonilla has collated the texts on the original versions; he has supplied an authenticated critical commentary by listing such passages in Menéndez Pelayo's previous works as deal with the texts in question. Furthermore, he has added not a few notes of historical, literary, and bibliographical character, especially in connection with the *Viaje Entretenido*. In addition to the strictly editorial work, Bonilla has prefaced the volume with a biographical study (pp. 1-90) in which he presents a worthy treatment of the life, aims, method and work of Menéndez Pelayo,—a treatment based on an intimate acquaintance with both the man and his writings. Among the interesting biographical items may be mentioned the list of studies on Menéndez Pelayo himself (pp. 93-5); a plan of the unwritten volumes of the *Ideas estéticas* (pp. 47-49); reference to the unpublished correspondence between Milá and Ferdinand Wolf (p. 50); the fees received for various publications (p. 56); terms of the bequest of his library to the city of Santander (pp. 58-60). Finally, we have a descriptive and analytical bibliography (pp. 91-148) which is the culmination of several previous studies on the same subject and which may be regarded as final. An excellent portrait forms the frontispiece of the volume.

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In his *Syntax der Modi im modernen Französisch* (Halle, Niemeyer, 1914, 266 pp.), Hermann Soltmann has collected material from contemporary sources and has grouped it according to kinship in thought categories rather than after the traditional schemes. Drawing upon works of the most unequal value, including authors notoriously careless of style, faddists, and no little trivial or ephemeral literature, the book is not one to be placed as a guide in the hands of the learner, but to the syntactical *piocheur* it is a delight. The author, whose eye is keen and whose reading is as extensive as it is catholic—or shall we say heretical—, has dug out a number of rare and interesting specimens among which hardly a reader but can find curiosities that will fill long vacant spots in his cabinet. The book is not speech history, but an interesting compilation of the kind of material from which speech history is made, for out of it and its like are culled those bits which, attaining a permanent hold, keep even the official syntax of a language from ever becoming a completed story.